

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled).
2. (cancelled).
3. (previously amended) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 19 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2.
4. (previously amended) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 19 which is from Tricholoma matsutake.
5. (previously amended) A vector comprising a nucleotide molecule according to claim 19.
6. (original) A vector according to claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of plasmid vectors, virus vectors, and liposome vectors.
7. (original) A vector according to claim 5, which is selected from the group consisting of pBluescript SK(-), pBluescript SK(+), pRIT2T, pBPV, pSVK3, pET vector, and pQE vector.
8. (currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the vector according to claim 5.
9. (previously amended) A host cell according to claim 8, which is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, a yeast cell, *Bacillus subtilis*, a CHO cell, a

COS cell, a human keratinocyte, a C127 cell, a mouse 3T3 cell, a FR3T3 cell, and an HB101 cell.

10. (previously amended) A host cell according to claim 8 which is E. coli selected from the group consisting of a SOLR strain, a JM109 strain, a SURE strain, a TOP strain, and a BL21 strain.

11. (original) A host cell according to claim 8 which is a yeast YRG-2 strain.

12. (previously amended) A process for preparing a protein, comprising culturing a host cell comprising a nucleotide molecule according to claim 19 which encodes the protein, and isolating the protein from a culture medium.

13. (cancelled).

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).

17. (cancelled).

18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) An isolated nucleotide molecule which encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

20. (previously added) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 19, which encodes a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

21. (previously added) A nucleotide molecule according to claim 19, wherein the nucleotide molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2.